

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)073**

**(Question Serial No. 2854)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department conducts risk assessment on pests affecting public health, formulates response strategies, and takes control measures to prevent incidents of vector-borne diseases. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) (i) the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated by the Department, (ii) the manpower and (iii) expenditure involved, and (iv) the number of post-elimination inspections conducted, in each of the past 3 years;
- (b) (i) the expenditure and (ii) time allocated by the Department for preventing incidents of mosquito-borne diseases, as well as (iii) the number of mosquito prevention and elimination operations conducted, in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by category of incidents;
- (c) the frequency of publicity work of the Department on educating inbound and outbound travellers on mosquito-borne diseases, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved, in each of the past 3 years; and
- (d) the expenditure and manpower involved for conducting publicity on mosquito-borne diseases in the community in the past year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

- (a) In the past 3 years (from 2023 to 2025), the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the number of inspections conducted regarding mosquito control are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of mosquito breeding places eliminated</b>	<b>Number of inspections conducted</b>
2023	76 855	800 789
2024	73 861	788 991
2025	80 312	746 506

In the past 3 years (from 2023 to 2025), the manpower and expenditure involved in pest control work, including rodent and mosquito prevention and control, of the Department are as follows:

Year	Civil service staffing		Total number of staff employed by pest control service contractors
	Planning and implementation of pest control work in districts	Vector surveillance, technical support and advisory work	
2023	745	109	1 860 <sup>Note</sup>
2024	745	109	1 573
2025	745	109	1 166

Note: Excluding positions created under the Anti-epidemic Fund.

Year	Overall expenditure on pest control services <sup>Note</sup> (\$ million)	Government staff costs for pest control work (\$ million)	Expenditure on pest control service contracts (\$ million)
2023-24	795	292	424
2024-25	846	307	450
2025-26 (Revised estimate)	811	301	424
2026-27 (Estimate)	754	290	377

Note: The overall expenditure on pest control services includes the expenditure on government staff, service contracts and other day-to-day operating expenses.

(b)&(d) In 2025, a total of 745 in-house staff and 1 166 staff engaged by the contractors were involved in the pest control work, including rodent and mosquito prevention and control, of the Department. There were around 2 183 publicity and education activities carried out, which included seminars, exhibitions and site visits. In 2025-26, the overall revised estimated expenditure of the Department on pest control services was \$811 million. The manpower and expenditure covered not only the prevention and control work of mosquitoes and other arthropod pests with public health importance but also rodent prevention and control. Besides, the pest control work of the Department also includes daily inspections, law enforcement, technical support for different departments/organisations, publicity and education, as well as complaint investigation. The Department does not have a separate breakdown specifically for the prevention of mosquito-borne diseases.

(c) Publicity work for inbound and outbound travellers is not under the purview of the Department. Therefore, no information is maintained in this regard.

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